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AM-JFK-CONFESS 1-18

BY EDWARD K. DULONG

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- INTERROGATION OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD ENDED JUST 11 MINUTES BEFORE HE WAS SHOT TO DEATH, AND THE POSTAL INSPECTOR WHO CONDUCTED THE PROBE CONCLUDED OSWALD NEVER WOULD HAVE CONFESSED TO KILLING JOHN KENNEDY, RECORDS SHOWED WEDNESDAY.

"OSWALD AT NO TIME APPEARED CONFUSED OR IN DOUBT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE SHOULD ANSWER A QUESTION," POSTAL INSPECTOR H.D. HOLMES SAID IN A REPORT DATED DEC. 17, 1963.

"ON THE CONTRARY, HE WAS QUITE ALERT AND SHOWED NO HESITANCY IN ANSWERING THOSE QUESTIONS WHICH HE WANTED TO ANSWER, AND WAS QUITE SKILLFUL IN PARRYING THOSE QUESTIONS WHICH HE DID NOT WANT TO ANSWER.

"I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAD DISCIPLINED HIS MIND AND REFLEXES TO A STATE WHERE I PERSONALLY DOUBTED THAT HE WOULD EVER HAVE CONFESSED."

HOLMES WAS ASSISTED IN THE INTERROGATION BY DALLAS POLICE CAPTAIN WILL FRITZ WITH FBI AND SECRET SERVICE AGENTS PRESENT.

QUESTIONING BEGAN ABOUT 9:25 A.M. SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 196", AND ENDED AT 11:10 A.M., THE REPORT SAID. OSWALD WAS SHOT BY JACK RUBY AT 11:21 A.M. AS HE WAS BEING TRANSFERRED FROM FRITZ' OFFICE IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS TO THE COUNTY JAIL.

HOLMES, ONE OF MANY GOVERNMENT AGENTS BROUGHT IN TO HELP WITH THE MASSIVE INVESTIGATION, SAID OSWALD WAS OFFERED FRESH CLOTHING RIGHT BEFORE HE LEFT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, BUT REJECTED EVERYTHING EXCEPT A RAGGED BLACK SWEATER.

HE SAID OSWALD WAS OFFERED "TROUSERS, SHIRTS AND A COUPLE OF SWEATERS" ON CLOTHES HANGERS, BUT HE WANTED ONLY A SWEATER.

"HE DIDN'T LIKE THE ONE THEY HANDED HIM AND INSISTED ON PUTTING ON A BLACK SLIP-OVER SWEATER THAT HAD SOME JAGGED HOLES NEAR THE FRONT OF THE RIGHT SHOULDER," HOLMES SAID.

DURING THE QUESTIONING, HOLMES YAID, OSWALD EMPHATICALLY DENIED HAVING ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE KENNEDY SHOOTING, AND SAID HE WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY JUST BECAUSE HE HAD "POPPED A POLICEMAN IN THE NOSE IN A THEATER ON JEFFERSON AVENUE" DURING HIS CAPTURE.

"HE DENIED THAT HE HAD EVER ORDERED ANY RIFLE BY MAIL ORDER OR BOUGHT ANY MONEY ORDER FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING FOR SUCH A RIFLE," HOLMES WROTE. "IN FACT, HE CLAIMED HE OWNED NO RIFLE AND HAD NOT PRACTICED OR SHOT A RIFLE OTHER THAN POSSIBLY A .22, SMALL BORE RIFLE SINCE HIS DAYS WITH THE MARINE CORPS.

"HE STATED THAT 'HOW COULD I AFFORD TO ORDER A RIFLE ON MY SALARY OF $1.25 AN HOUR WHEN I CAN'T HARDLY FEED MYSELF ON WHAT I MADE.'"

UPI 01-18 07:12 PES

To rel to: Tom Kelley last-minute conference with LHO. See White wash on Rios